

Application No. 10/577,914
Amendment dated March 18, 2011
Reply to Office Action of December 20, 2010

REMARKS

**Reconsideration And Allowance
Are Respectfully Requested.**

Claims 1, 3-11, 15 and 16 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 3-11 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled by way of the present amendment. Claims 12-14 were previously canceled. New claims 15 and 16 have been added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants would first like to thank Examiner Polynsky for the courtesies extended during the Interview conducted on March 15, 2011. During the course of this Interview, Japanese Patent No. 2000-017352 to Nishino ("Nishino") was discussed as it relates to proposed amendments to claim 1. After discussing Nishino and the claims in detail, it was agreed Applicants would submit amended claims and the Examiner would further consider the amended claims.

The Office Action first objects to claims 5-8 and 10 based upon informalities. These informalities have been addressed in the amendments and Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

In addition, claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have addressed these rejections by amending the

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pending claims and the claims are now believed to comply with § 112. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection thereof be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejections based upon cited references, claims 1, 2, 8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishino. Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nishino as applied above. Claims 5-7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,902,424 to Fujita ("Fujita"). Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,415,697 to Bredzs ("Bredzs"). These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the preceding amendments and the remarks which follow.

Claim 1 has been amended to define a process for producing metal-matrix composite materials comprising at least one portion of magnesium or of a magnesium alloy. The process includes thixomolding a granulate of magnesium or of a magnesium alloy and a granulate of a silicon or of a silicon alloy to produce an Mg_2Si phase with a volumetric content of at least 2% dispersed into the metal-matrix composite material. The step of thixomolding includes shearing to form an at least partially liquid melt.

Considering amended claim 1 and the application of Nishino, it is Applicants' opinion Nishino does not disclose the step of thixomolding including the step of shearing to form at least one partially liquid melt. Accordingly, it is Applicants' opinion amended claim 1 overcomes

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Nishino and Applicants respectfully request all rejections relating thereto be withdrawn. As to those claims dependent upon independent claim 1, they are also believed to overcome the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above and Applicants respectfully request these rejections also be withdrawn.

It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested. If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact Applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stewart L. Gitler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stewart" and last name "Gitler" clearly distinguishable.

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